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Letter dated 20 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter of Mr. Goran Svilanović, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex), relative to the decision of the Government of my country to present the candidature of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

(*Signed*) Dejan **Šahović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

For the past 10 years, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been facing the challenge of dealing with the problems of the largest refugee population in Europe. During that period, it has provided shelter for almost 700,000 refugees and expelled persons from the territories of the former Yugoslavia, for 235,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija and striven, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to resolve the problem of refugees from other countries.

In these efforts, the Yugoslav authorities have acquired ample experience. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, assisted by the international community, has been active in seeking durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, either by helping them to return to their places of origin or by integrating them in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In its succession statement of 6 March 2001, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also accepted the international obligations of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a state party to the Convention relative to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 and to the Protocol thereto of 31 January 1967. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expressed its will to implement fully, in good faith and in cooperation with the international community, the provisions of these major instruments, based on the principle of solidarity and protection of the fundamental human rights of this category of the population.

In view of our experience in handling refugees and internally displaced persons and the activities undertaken by the new democratic authorities in finding durable solutions to the refugee problems, and the fact that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regulated its status in the United Nations on 1 November 2000, I would like to inform you that my country has decided to present its candidature for membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

I take this opportunity to request you, in accordance with the rules applicable to new members of the Executive Committee, to initiate the relevant procedure for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to be admitted to this important body as a full-fledged member.

(*Signed*) Goran **Svilanović**